DESCRIPTION

OF THE

VENEREAL DISEASE:

DECLARING THE

CAUSES, SIGNS, EFFECTS,

And CURE thereof.

With a DISCOURSE of the most Wonderful

ANTIVENEREAL PILL.

Prepared onely by

CHARLES PETER,

Chyrurgeon, and Practitioner in *Physick*,

And are to be sold at his House in St. *Martins-lane*, near *Long-acre*, over against the Sign of the *Castle*.

LONDON,

Printed for the Author, 1678.

A

DESCRIPTION

OF THE

VENEREAL DISEASE;

PARTICULARLY THE

CAUSES, SIGNS, EFFECTS,

And CURE thereof.

[illegible]

VENEREAL PILL.

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READER,

I *Have, for the Common Good, made publick my* Antiveneral Pill. *I doubt not but ſome will cavil at my Endeavours, and thoſe perhaps ſome of my own Profeſſion; though themſelves either cannot, or will not, advantage the Good of the Publick. The great number of People which I have ſeen in many Parts of this Kingdom to have periſhed (for want of Help) by the* Venereal Diſeaſe, *hath occaſioned me to unfold to the World what I never did intend to do, as touching the Diſeaſe: For the confidence of many Perſons, that pretend to cure this Diſtemper, and the ignorance of thoſe Perſons that adventure their Lives into the Hands of ſuch Impoſtors, who, without fear of God, or compaſſion to Mankind, promiſe Cure (let the Diſtemper be never ſo bad) taking Money in hand, and giving many ineffectual Doſes, either deſtroy the Patient, or make him worſe, perhaps throw him into a dangerous Salivation, and ſo to his Grave. The which while I have often deplored, I thought my ſelfe bound in Conſcience to inform the People of a nearer and a better way of Cu-*

ring than is too commonly practiſed by many bold Undertakers. What Miſchiefs many illiterate Perſons have caus'd, by their ill-prepared Doſes, many miſerable Patients can witneſs, (the greater the ſhame) while we live in a Kingdom ſo well Furniſhed with Learned Phyſicians *and Skilful* Chyrurgeons, *whoſe Knowledge in* Anatomy, *and daily Experience, make them the onely Perſons capable of undertaking ſo dangerous a Malady. A Diſeaſe not to be trifled with: For, although generally we find in our Weekly Bills of Mortality, that* Conſumption *is intituled the greateſt Executioner of Deaths Commands; yet I am of the opinion, that the* Venereal Diſtemper *is the greater Deſtroyer of Mankind. I will therefore give thee an Account of the Nature of this* Hydra, *with a Diſcourſe of my* Pill, *which, I aſſure thee, is the choiceſt Remedy that can be uſed in all Effects of the* Venereal Diſtemper.

CConcerning the Original of the *Venereal Diſeaſe*, Authours are various, and differ much in the Name of it: The *Italians* call it *Morbus Gallicus*; the *French* call it *Scabiem Hiſpanicam*, and *Morbum Italicum*; in *Spain* they call it *Morbum Neopolitanum*; and ſeveral other Names it has, which for brevity I do omit. The *French* ſay, that the *Italians* firſt brought it among them; the

the *Spaniards* they lay it on the *French*; and both *Italians* and *French* accuse the *Spaniard*, and say, that *Columbus* brought home his Men infected with it from the *Indies*. But I think it matters not from whence it came, or what 'tis called, since 'tis known we have it in *England* as much as any where: The Common People here call it *The French Pox*; and I shall treat of it by the Name of *Lues Venerea*, under which Name I shall comprehend the *Grand Pox*, and the *Gonorrhœa*, and all Effects of either of them.

The Causes of the Lues Venerea.

THE Causes of this Distemper are twofold: The first of an occult Quality, being as a Scourge laid on *Mankind* (by the *Almighty*) to restrain our too wanton *Lusts*; the other is by an *impure touch* or *contagion*, especially in *copulation*; a Man receiving of an *infected vapour* or *filthy sanies* into the *pores* of the *skin*, or into the *Urethra* (which is the Conduit of the *Yard*) in the time of *copulation*, as well before the ejecting of the *Seed*, as after; the *Woman* having either a *Gonorrhœa*, or else an *Ulcer*: from the *latter* of which I have known to proceed so *virulent* an *ichorous matter*, that it hath penetrated the *Yard* immediately, and caused an *Ulcer*.

There are several other ways by which this *Disease* may be gotten; as by *Sodomy*, *&c.* I have known some to get it by *kissing*: for if either party have an *Ulcer* in the *Throat*, or in the *Mouth*, from which a *slimie juyce* proceeding, and the *lips* being moistned thereby, may very easily *infect*. *Children* are very subject to be infected this way: for, by reason the *pores* of their *skin* being open and apt to attract, they are soon injur'd by an *unwholesom kiss*.

The *venom* is very often communicated from *Nurses* to *Children*, and as often *Nurses* are infected by *Children*; therefore Parents ought to be careful in chusing *Nurses*, and *Nurses* ought to take heed whose *Children* they *suckle*; for a very small matter is able to infect either, and many *Families* have been undone by receiving the *Distemper* this way. 'Tis dangerous to sweat in a Bed with one that has the Pox, or to sit over a Close-stool where the *excrements* of a *pockie person* are. For *drinking* with them, 'tis not dangerous, unless their Mouths being *ulcerated*, they leave a *pockie slime* on the edges of the Cup; nor can their *breaths* infect, I am sure, though some are of a contrary opinion. There is a great deal of variety in *Bodies*, some being far more easily *infected* than others, as *sanguine* and *phlegmatick persons*; but are more easily cured than *cholerick* or *melancholy persons* are: as for example, I have known several *Men* to be concerned with one *Woman*, one soon after the other, and some to come off without being hurt, and the others dangerously pepper'd.

The Signs of the Lues Venerea.

THe *signs* of this *Distemper* are various, according to the *strength* and *constitution* of the Patient. The general *signs* are these; *viz.* A great *debility* of the *whole Body*, as if wearied by much *labour*, *stiffness* of all the *joynts*, especially about the *Hips* and *Thighs*, great *pulsation* of the *Arteries*, a shooting *pain* in the *Groins*, *pain* in the *Cod*, *itching* about the *root* of the *Yard*, *sharpness* of *Urine*, a *pricking pain* in *erection*, a flowing of *yellow sanies* from the *Yard*, and oft-times *pain* in the *Back*, and in the *Head*. These are the *infallible signs* of a *Gonorrhœa*, some of them

them happning to one, and some to another; and I have known all of them to happen to *one person*, and at *one time*. Sometimes *Caruncles* do stop up the *Urethra*, sometimes *Buboes* do arise in the *Groins*, which if once *suppurate* and *opened* handsomly, the *Cure* is performed with much ease; but if they are drove back into the *body*, they make the *Distemper* more inveterate, seise the *Liver*, and confirm a *Pox*. Some persons immediately after the receiving of the *Infection* are taken with a *giddiness* in the *Head*, and most terrible *pains* in the *Eyes* and *Ears*, and break out with small red *pimples*, which presently return into the *Body*, and a while after break out with foul *scabs*, some *moist* and *spreading*, though generally they are *dry* and *hard*, and very nearly represent the *cup* of an *Acorn*, both in *shape* and *colour*: Some have *Ulcers* upon the *head* of the *Yard*, and upon the *Fore-skin*; some are troubled with *Warts* upon the *Yard*, and about the *Fundament*: These are certain *symptoms* of the *Pox*.—*Note*, That this *Distemper* doth vary much in its *times*, many times shewing it self in *one*, *two*, or *three days*, sometimes lying hid a *month*, *two*, or *three*, and sometimes *a year*, or more; but it lieth not idle, for the longer it lies hid, the more inveterate it proves when once it appears; and oft-times disguised under another *name*, it tyranniseth in the Body, to the destruction of the Patient. I therefore advise all persons, That so soon as they find themselves touched with this *venomous dart*, they straightway repair to such persons as are able to help them.

The Effects of the Lues Venerea.

TO demonstrate all the *effects* of this *raging Distemper*, would take me up much time; there-

fore, as briefly as possible, I will acquaint thee how great a Tyrant this Disease is to those People who either scorn to own they have it, or those who being ashamed to confess their condition, rather venture to undergo it, than wisely to seek for *help*. I have known some so sordidly foolish, that having had *Ulcers* on the Head of the *Yard*, have so long slighted the Disease, until their *Yards* have been mortified even to the *Belly*, upon which ensued *immediate death*; and some escaping with their *lives*, have lost all the *Member*. Others I have known to be almost eaten up with this Disease, before they have known so much as the *name* of their Malady. I have seen some that have been taken with a violent pain in the Head, and in all the Joynts, have fallen into a Fever, and died mad. Some have sharp and continual pains in all the *Joynts*, especially in the *Shoulders* and *Shins*, and *Nodes* affixed to the Bones in many parts of the Body, insomuch that the very Bones become *rotten*; for this Humour is so penetrating, that it will creep between the Bone and the Flesh, and consume both. Some have the *Yard* so stopped with *Caruncles*, that they cannot make Water: Some have the *Uvula* and the Palat of the Mouth eaten away by *Ulcers*; and many you see lose their Noses by this violent Disease. Some have the Tip of the Nose and Nostrils eaten away; some lose their Eyes, and many their Hearing, and some their Mouths drawn awry: And indeed I could quote multitudes of Examples of the fury of it. *Oh, how intolerable are the pains that many poor wretches endure by this Distemper, especially in the night, at which time it most boldly walks its Rounds to afflict poor Mortals!* For indeed all Pains are worse in the night than in the day, by reason that the exercising of the Body doth divert the pain in the

day,

day, but the warmneſs of the Bed at night doth ſtir up the *malignity*; and the very *thoughts* of the Patient in the night being fixed on the *object* of *pain*, doth make the miſery more intolerable. Many years have ſome undergone the tyranny of this Diſtemper, till at laſt, it having enervated all the parts of the Body, and conſumed the Fleſh to the Bones, it ſurrenders them to the Grave; whom perhaps, had they but uſed ſuch Medicines as had been proper in ſuch caſes, they might ſoon have eradicated the *venom* out of their Bodies: But, as I have ſaid before, 'tis not a few, but many thouſands, that have periſhed for want of ſuch noble Medicines as have force to overcome the *malignity* of this Diſeaſe. How many *Conſumptions*, *Catarhs*, *Aſthmaes*, and innumerable more Diſeaſes, proceed from nothing elſe but this Fountain? I tell thee, *Reader*, 'tis *this* that is the *domineering Diſtemper* of *our Age*, though people are of opinion that the *Scurvie* is more prevailing, which indeed is a very deſtructive Malady, incident to moſt Men, eſpecially to thoſe that eat over-much Fleſh, or lead ſedentary Lives, and to Sea-men in long Voyages: for the reliques of the *Lues Venerea* doth many times convert into the *Scurvie* and *Dropſie*, and not ſeldom into the *Gout*. And *I* pray obſerve this, That whereever any Diſtemper happens to be complicated with the *Venereal Diſeaſe*, or any Relique of it, it always proves *very ſtubborn*, and will not yield to *ordinary Means*, and indeed cannot be perfectly cured without the uſe of good *Antivenereal Medicines*.

Concerning the Cure of the Lues Venerea.

IT may be expected *I* ſhould be large on *this ſubject*, ſince 'tis ſo generally known, that *I* have had

had so great an *experience* of it; but should I relate the *many Observations* I have made of this *Distemper*, they would fill a *Volume*: But, *Reader*, since perhaps thou art a *stranger* to my *Name*, I shall acquaint thee with some *few particulars*, that thou mayst know I am no *Youngster* at the *Cure* of *this Disease*. Among the *great number* of those that pretend to the *Cure* of *this Distemper*, I have found *very few* that could give any *rational Account* of it, most of them following the *Methods* of *ancient Authors*, which in *former Ages* undoubtedly were *very knowing* in *their way*; but the *Disease* is so much altered in *this our Age*, that he which depends on *former prescriptions* will find his *Medicines invalid*. There have been used, and still are, many ways for the *curing* of this *Malady*: Some use *Fumigations*; some *Salivation*, either by *Medicines* given *inwardly*, or by *Unction outwardly*: Some use *Bathing* and *Sweating*; others work by *Diet*, and others by *purging*; some make *Issues* in many parts of the *Body*, to evacuate the *offending Humour*. The way by *Fumigations* I am against, and the use of them is now out of doors, being found to be *very dangerous*. I cannot approve of *Salivation*, for many Reasons; for whoever he be that undergoes a *Salivation* (which ought to continue at least *twenty one days*) must have the *patience* of *Job*, or else he will never endure the *torture* that attends it; and I am of the opinion, that if Cases were *equally balanced*, you would find as many to be *destroyed* by *Salivating*, as ever were *relieved* by it: as for example, 'Tis certain, that no *Salivation* can be raised but by *Mercurial Medicines*, which I have often seen many to lament the rash use of; for by overcharging the *Tonsillæ* (which are the *glandulous Bodies* through which the *Spittle* cometh)

and

and *Amygdales* (commonly called the *Almonds of the Ears*) with the *virulent Matter* which they ſtrive to evacuate by *ſpitting*, I have often known ſuch *Inflammations*, and after them *Ulcerations* to happen, that the *patient* has been near *choaked*, and the *acrimony* of the *Humor* lodged among the *parts*, until not onely it have eaten away the *Uvula*, but fouled the *palat* of the *Mouth*, and oftentimes the *bones* of the *noſe*; and I am certain, that moſt of thoſe *bridg-fallen Noſes* that we daily ſee, are occaſioned by *Salivation*. But ſuppoſe the *patient* to eſcape all theſe *Accidents*, do but conſider, how this way fouls the *Teeth*, beyond the help of any *Medicine* to cleanſe again; and many times it leaves a *ſtinking Breath*, or perhaps it only leaves them a *pain* in their *Joynts*. Methinks, theſe things conſidered, People ſhould not eaſily be perſuaded to this ſort of *Cure*, eſpecially if they did but know what *Spaſmes* (or *Convulſions* of the *Nerves*) have been occaſioned by it: I have ſeen *Mouths drawn awry*, and *ſquinting* cauſed by it; *Limbs contracted*, and innumerable more *miſchiefs* to ariſe from it: and I have been more troubled to help thoſe *Accidents* that have hapned by reaſon of *Salivation*, than ever I was to cure the *Diſtemper* it ſelf. *Sweating* I approve of, and likewiſe of *Bathing*; for being uſed in *due time* and *place*, they are very beneficial: for they attenuate the *Humours*, make the *Body* lively, and help to evacuate the *Matter*; eſpecially if any *viſcous Matter* have poſſeſſed the *Joynts*, they by their *moderate heat* do help to diſcuſs it. As for *Iſſues*, they ſerve well enough to attract and diſcharge the *Humour*, therefore very proper where the *Eyes* are affected, or in any *diſtillation* of the *Humour*, or in a *Catarrh* or *Aſthma*, they help much; but have no power of themſelves to overcome the

Malignity.

Malignity. But of all ways imaginable, there is none like *Diet* and *Purging*, which if rightly prepared, and carefully uſed, do infallibly eradicate the Diſtemper. *I* can by many years experience ſay, That *Purging* is the moſt excellent way of *Curing*; *I* mean, purging with ſuch noble Medicines as have the power to correct the Malignity of ſo *virulent* a Diſeaſe: for 'tis not every of thoſe *common* Purgers that have power to overcome the *Malignity*; but ſuch *Specificks* which not onely purge the offending Humour, but by their admirable Qualities cleanſe the Blood, fortifie the Heart, Liver, and Brain, and clearly extirpate the Diſeaſe from the Body. And indeed, the onely Medicine that ever *I* have found prevalent in theſe Caſes, is my *Antivenereal Pills*, which work ſo ſafely and ſo ſurely, that *I* never knew them fail, if taken carefully. *I* never uſe any other Medicine in all manner of *Claps*; and *I* could quote vaſt numbers of People that have been cured by them, to my great pleaſure and profit (but Silence in ſuch caſes is and always ſhall be my reſolution). *In* the *Pox* there have been ſuch ſtrange Cures wrought by this Pill, that have made many of my own Profeſſion to admire the Vertues of it.

Wherefore ſince it hath pleaſed God to grant me the knowledge of ſo wonderful a Medicine, *I* could not reſt ſatisfied in my mind until *I* publiſhed it for the good of the World. And now, *Reader*, pray be ſo charitable in thy Opinion of me, as not to judge me guilty of encouraging of Luſt, by my acquainting the World with the Effects of it, and the way to get out of the Labyrinth which it generally leaves Men in; neither think that *I* deſire more to gain by my Labours, than to do good to my Country:

Quia, Nos non nobis nati ſumus.

The

The ANTIVENEREAL PILL.

THeſe Pills are of moſt wonderful Vertue; they work by Stool and Urine, and gently move Sweat: They work moſt by Urine; for 'tis but rational the Diſtemper ſhould be caſt out the ſame way it was received. They work by Stool pleaſantly, without any gripings or tortions of the Guts. They do moſt admirably correct the virulency, and take away the ſharpneſs of Urine, in three or four times taking; and *I* aſſure thee, upon the Faith of a *Chriſtian*, that *I* have many times cured a *freſh Clap* with eight or nine Doſes of them, and ſometimes with fewer, and that ſafely, without any relapſe, and without any uſe of Reſtringent Medicines; (for 'tis a common trick among raſh Practitioners, that having given half a dozen or more Purges, they preſently adminiſter Reſtringents, and ſo ſtop the Humour, which will not lie ſtill, but returning into the Body, ſeiſes the Liver, corrupts the whole maſs of Blood, and conſequently confirms a Pox in the Body, perhaps to the utter ruine of the Patient. Theſe Pills are balſamick, as well as cathartick, and therefore do all the *Intentions of Curing*. They are to be taken two, three, or four at a time, ſtill obſerving to alter the Doſe, according to the ſtrength of the Patient. Two may be taken by any one for the firſt Doſe; and if they do not work by Stool ſeven or eight times, then increaſe the Doſe the next day. They ought to be taken two days together, and the Party to reſt the third, and then to fall to them again; but if the Diſtemper be inveterate, let the Patient continue taking them without intermiſſion; for they will work onely on the *offend-*

ing Humour. The best way of taking them is *early in the morning*, and to lie in Bed and sleep *two or three hours* after the taking of them. Sometimes I order them to be taken *at night*, when the party goes to bed; but then the *dose* must not exceed *two*, or *three* at the most. And *note*, That the party which takes them at *night*, ought to eat no *supper*, but early in the *morning* to drink something that is warm; for they will work by *Stool* so soon as the party rises. Those who take them in the *morning*, whether they lie in bed or not after they have took them, they ought in *three hours* after them to take a draught of *warm Ale*, *Posset-drink*, *Water-grewel*, or *Mutton* or *Veal-broth*, which will much help the *working* of them. Any one may safely go abroad after they have taken them, but it would be better if they keep within till near Noon: at Dinner they may eat heartily of *fresh Meats*, and drink *Wine*, provided they exceed not *one pint a day*; for I have found by experience, that *Wine*, moderately drank, is beneficial in *most Diseases*; and I find, that in *Claps*, or any *Distemper* where the *Urinary passages* are affected, *Wine* helpeth much, especially *White wine.*

This Pill is so *safely* prepared, that it may be taken by *any person* without danger, (as *Women with Child, &c.*) and the *operation* of it is so *free* and *easie*, that it is *pleasant*, as well as *profitable.* It hath no *corroding quality*, nor doth it cause any *unsavoury belchings*, as loathsom *Boles* and Potions do. There is no person but may take it, and go about their Business as if they ailed nothing; nor can any one perceive that the party has taken *any thing*; for it exhilerates all the *vital Faculties*, it being as much *cordial* as *purgative.* It not onely cures *safely*, *pleasantly*, and *quickly*; but 'tis a *great preservative* against the *Infection*:

fection: A *Dose* taken immediately after the *Act*, either carrieth away all *venom* with it, or causeth it forthwith to shew it self, whereby a more *speedy Cure* is acquired. In a word, I am certain there is no *Medicine* in the World mor efficacious (in all *Effects* of the *Foul Disease*) than these most excellent Pills are.

In *all manner* of *Poxes* I have found them most admirable: I have cured people which have been afflicted with all the *varieties* of the *Pox*, by these Pills onely: as for example, In an *old consumptive Pox*, where the parties have been so weakned by continual pains that they could scarce stir, I have administred these worthy Pills, which have worked so effectually with correcting the *Cause*, and evacuating the *offending Humour*, and by their nutritive quality corroborating the *vital parts*, they have soon restored the Patients to perfect health.

Others whose Privy-parts have been covered with Warts (which is an absolute demonstration that the Distemper hath taken root in the Body) I have given them of these Pills, which have eradicated the Distemper, that the Warts have consumed without any *local Applications*.

I have cured many of large *Nodes* by the use of these Pills; for they dissolve them, and purge away the dregs of the Disease. These *Nodes* are caused by the phlegmatick part of the Venom left behind in ill managed Cures: they are very painful Swellings, sometimes on the Shins onely, and many times in many parts of the Body; and the Bones are often fouled by them, if not great care taken.

I have met with many rebellious *Ulcers* in the Privy-parts, and in many other parts of the Body, which have resisted the force of many good Medi-

cines

cines outwardly applied: In all such cases I have used these Pills, which has so changed the ill habit of the Body of the Patients, that their Sores have easily yielded to the same Medicines, and incarnated handsomly, and have been cured without any relapse. *Reader*, I could relate much more of the Virtues of these excellent Pills: but I suppose, what I have already said may be satisfactory enough: but if thou art dubious of any thing that thou hast read here, I shall be very willing to satisfie thee in it, and I question not but to justifie what I have here published to the World.

Those to whom Pills are troublesom to swallow, may take them in the pulp of an Apple, a stew'd Prune, a Raisin, or a preserv'd Cherry; or they may put them into a piece of Leaf-Wafer, and take them in a spoonful of Ale, or any other Liquor, as they best like.

These Pills are put up in Tin Boxes, and sealed with my Coat of Arms; each Box containing Thirty Pills, and are sold for Four shillings the Box. They are sold at my own House, and the following places:

Mr. Thomas Burrell's *Book-seller, at the* Golden Ball *under* St. Dunstans *Church in* Fleet-street.

And at the Sign of the Printing-Press, *in the* Piazza *on the South-side of the* Royal-Exchange.

I have in my House most convenient and cleanly Bathes, likewise very good Conveniencies of Sweating, by all the several ways used here, or in Foreign Parts.